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LETTER

TO THE

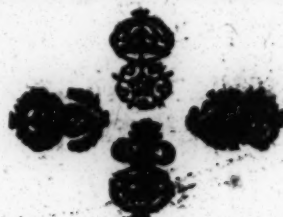
LORD *FLEETWOOD*,

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FROM

AN OFFICER

IN THE

ARMY.



EDINBURGH,

Printed by *Christopher Higgins*, in *Harts Close*, over
against the *Trone Church*, 1659.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1917

1918

1919

1920

1921

1922

1923

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1927

A
L E T T E R
 TO THE
L O R D F L E E T W O O D,
 F R O M
 An OFFICER in the *Army.*

My Lord,

I Am given to understand, that the Committee of Officers, to whom the late Paper was recommitted from the Gen. Council, have added several things beyond their Instructions, as namely, That no Officer be laid aside but by a Court-Martial, nor any Commissioned by Parliament, but what shall be approved by the Committee of Nomination. My Lord, I know this is a pleasing Bait to such as put a higher value on their Commissions, than on their duty to the Parliament, whence they derived them; It seems strange to me, that this Army, who could subject themselves and Commissions to the lusts of the late single person, to be laid aside at the pleasure of him, who was but a Servant as themselves, must now impose and limit the Supream

Authority of the Nation: I never expect that injustice from a Parliament, which I have seen practised by Court-magistrs; Witness the Colloquy and cruel imprisonment of some faithfull Officers, only for mentioning the intollerable Pride and Luxury of the late Court; the persons that were Judges, I heard some of them confesse, that they were acted through a spirit of fear against their own light; I say again, I never heard of any such thing done by Parliament. My Lord, I hope we are all sensible, that the Parliament have not often used their power in this case, and from thence comes a great part of our Miseries; for, had they timely clipped the wings of their old General, doubtlesse the Nation had never known the Miseries and Confusions that since have come upon it; Nay, we our selves should never have had temptations to those Apostacies, that defiled our Consciences before G. O. D, and our Reputation to the World. My Lord, we are either Servants or Masters; If Masters, let us tell the Parliament, that we only called them there to take the Oath, raising Money upon the People to maintain us, and let them know, what terms they must have; If we be Servants, raised and maintained by them, let us not offer them which we would abhor our own servants should offer to us. My Lord, your Lordship has many domestick servants, and I perfwage my self, a sober family; and I think while they carry themselves well, it were hardnesse in your Lordship to turn any away to take place in the room; But my Lord, if any one servant should come and say, I challenge it as my right to continue, unlesse dismiss by my fellow servants; though I know your Lordship of a mild temper, yet certainly you would think that servant unworthy

continued in *Wallingford* house. As to what is pro-
 posed touching the Committee of Nomination, I have
 not heard above two or three Officers in all the Army
 that have been commissioned by the Parliament, but
 what have been approved by that Committee, and by
 them the Army hath been moulded. I hear, my Lord,
 the indigent families of many poor Officers, discharged
 by the Parliament, have received as having had
 such assistance as was met by Parliament. Some
 Regiments ten, some fourteen, some twenty Officers
 laid aside, that had served many of them eighteen years,
 and never any Crime laid to their charge, only to pre-
 fer Friends and Relations, many of whom never drew
 Sword in this Service: Let the world judge whether it
 be fit to impose such Spoils on a Parliament; nor
 that I do not to detract from the worth of those worthy
 Gentlemen of that Committee, I think it less injury to
 say they acted upon full information, than to lay such
 an Imputation on the Parliament for what was done in
 their late Vote. My Lord, I have thus far spoken as
 to the matter in the Proposal, I shall now say a few
 words of my thoughts as to the ends. My Lord, to my
 understanding, the design of this Proposal is to create
 an Interest in the Army distinct to that of Parliament
 and Nation; and this, I say, is one great Secrecy
 against the Spirit of the Nation, which was possibly
 introduced in Parliament. My Lord, I find many
 of your Officers, especially those of the late Northern
 Brigade, very much desirous the Constitutions of Corpo-
 rations, as Emblems of Monarchy, it seems to me in-
 congruous, that the same men should strive to bring the
 Army into a Corporation. My Lord, were it possible
 to form an Army of Solers in reality, such as would
 un-

undoubtedly abide steadfast, and could this Army support it self either by its own property and interest, or by extraordinary food from heaven, I should not deny them a Charter, as the most renowned Incorporated Body upon the face of the earth. But, my Lord, seeing this Army consists of men subject to infirmity, that this Army was raised by Authority of this Parliament, called forth to assert and defend the Birthright and Liberty of the meanest man in the Nation as well as their own, and that this Army hath been paid and maintained out of the purses of the People, and cannot in future stand but by the same means, seeing there remaineth in this Army but a handfull of those men that bore the burden and heat of the War, many being retired to private Callings that have equally Mixed with our selves, that considering the Distemper now on the Spirit of the Nation, hath much of it arisen from the unjust Spirit of the Army, that set up what they pull down, and pull down what they set up; and now, if I misse not, seem to stand on Level with the Nation, in all which the world will judge fit at the bottom; Lords now think it ordinary to settle on such a Basis, as every mans Interest may be involved with our own, and all men see their own property and right maintained: Certainly he that doth righteously shall have praise with men, and the Vindication of this Army, tending to subjection to the Authority, under which God hath so much blessed us, shall alway the glory of the Spirit of the Nation, when they shall see Righteousness and Truth exalted in the midst of us, and every man able to say, That his Interest is interwoven in this Bottom, the contrary hereof will turn every mans hand against us, and ours against

against every man : Let us not think that if we go out of the way of the Lord, that our Numbers, our Horses, our Armies, our Successes, our courage or skill can save us ; We have seen with our eyes, men of greater might than our selves, blasted by inconsiderable means. My Lord, the most Righteous Government must most necessarily be upheld by the Sword ; But the Lord deliver this Nation from a Sword-government. For my own part, I was never an enemy to a single Person, because such, but because he usurped power, being neither called thereto by God, nor man ; and if twenty or thirty, nay, a whole Army should usurp the like Authority, I should be a like minded towards them ; for 'tis not the Number that makes the difference betwixt Tyrants and lawfull Magistrates. I have thought good to offer this to your Lordship, to the end, if your Lordship find any thing of reason from hence against the offering of that Proposal, your Lordship would vouchsafe it in the world, that such a thing may never go forth to the world, to the shame of an Army that so lately declared their sorrow for their former backslidings. I am,

My Lord,

*Your Lordships most humble
and faithfull Servant.*

against every man: let us not think that if we go out
of the way of the Lord, that our numbers, our strength,
our arms, our success, our courage will save us: We have seen
our selves, blasted by incredible means. My Lord, the most
Righteous Government itself must necessarily be upheld
by the sword: and the Lord deliver this Nation from a sword
government. For my own part, I was never an enemy to a single Person, because
such, but because he usurped power, being neither cal-
led sacred by God, nor man; and if twenty or thirty
nay, a whole Army should usurp like Authority, I
should be as like minded towards them; for it is not the
Number that makes the difference between Tyrants and
lawful Rulers. I have thought good to offer
this to your consideration, to the end that your Lordship and
any other of your Honourable Councils may be enabled to

that such a thing may never go forth in the world, to
the shame of an Army that has been so long
now for their former service. I am,

Your Lordship's most humble
servant

